

Lord Rosebery is right about an Imperial race
 let him also
 be right about National efficiency based on a
 National
 Minimum, in which Public Health and Public
 Education
 are the first chapters Let him lay to heart the
 lesson of the
 London County Council

"He is struck by the repeated successes of
 the Progressive Party
 in the L C C But these successes are not
 gained by any enuncia-
 tion of general principles, or merely by the
 declaration that the
 Progressives stood for progress, or for
 efficiency, in the abstract
 They were, as Lord Rosebery knows, won
 by a persistent and
 all-pervading propaganda of a detailed
 programme of reform in
 every department resolute and even
 extreme in its character,
 put forward by a group of men who had
 definitely thought out
 what they intended to get done, and who,
 at the risk of calumny
 and misunderstanding at the West End
 and in the City, did not
 shrink from painting the sky red with
 their projects"

From this, and other articles written about
 the turn of
 the century, one gets a pretty clear view of
 where they
 stood What they looked for was an association
 of men of
 good will for a programme of active social
 development
 The I L P had sailed off into romantic
 nationalist pacifism
 Chamberlain was preparing to break up the
 Conservatives
 on Protection, why not cut across all this with a
 big social
 reform programme on non-party lines ? If for
 a moment,
 they saw Rosebery as the man to do this, the
 illusion did
 not last Webb, himself, had no idea of
 entering active
 politics, although just at this time a strong
 plea was put up
 to him to do so T B Potter, a relation of Mrs
 Webb's,
 had represented Rochdale for thirty years It
 was a safe

Liberal seat, just the seat for an
Independent Would
Mr Webb consent to succeed Mr Potter ?
Proposals came
through the "ordinary channels," only to be
politely rejected
Then, one morning, the secretary, on his way
downstairs,
discerned, through the glass door of 41, the
figure of someone
standing on the mat When he opened the
door, although
he at once recognised the visitor, he enquired
his name